

The Donner Summit Heirloom



More What's in Your Closet

You'd think we might be getting tired of the above headline after using it the two previous months but we were sent some things and after the editorial staff got done spreading them out on the work tables in the DSHS and commenting, the thought was let's share. So here are some more things people found and sent along. Even after so much use the headline seems to be in good shape.

This should also serve as a reminder. We will take or borrow your history and share with our almost 1100+ subscribers and you will feel good. One of our earliest lessons as children is to share.

Some months ago we received an email from Rick Hellewell containing some pictures he'd found of Baxter in the old days. The pictures had stirred memories in Rick's mind that he shared with us as you can see below.

I found these old pictures of Baxter, CA. Probably from the 1940's-50's, maybe early 1960's at a craft fair in Apple Hill CA. They were printed postcard sizes. Sadly, the Baxter stores are no longer there or active.

Our family had a cabin just outside Baxter, since the late 1930's when my grandfather built it during the Depression. He had a grocery store in Lincoln CA ("Heavy's Market"), and would extend credit to his shoppers. Those people worked off the credit by helping to build the cabin. His family would spend a lot of the summers up there, as it was much cooler than in Lincoln. There was a creek nearby for rock skipping and creek walking. Because of the underground aquifer, there were many ferns/etc in the surrounding area. One fun thing when visiting was Grandma taking us to see the 'ladybug tree' nearby the cabin (1950's - 1960's).



It's fun to look at old pictures of days gone by showing how people lived. There used to be bus stops all along Highway 40. Here is a time when fewer people owned cars and buses were common transportation. Buses stopped at the Baxter Hotel and people could pick up box lunches and maybe some ice cream (the guy between the signs has an ice cream cone) at the Baxter Store Trading Post. There were cabins for rent and a gas station.

Story Locations in this Issue

Baxter's Norden Store page 7 Summit Hotel page 6 pictures page 13 possible location

DONNER SUMMIT



Finding Your Way Through Donner Summit History

We're closing in on two hundred issues of the Heirloom: thousands of pages, thousands of pictures, and hundreds of subjects. You've probably begun to realize that you cannot keep all the history in your head. Even if you remember it all, retrieval is difficult.

Fortunately one of the choices we made back at the birth of the DSHS was to index all our Heirloom articles and pictures. We've diligently kept up the indices so that they are many pages long, full of alphabetized titles and subjects. Go to our website and to any of the Heirloom pages (one for each year) and you'll find links to the Heirloom indices.

One of the strengths of the DSHS is the incomparable historical photograph collection. The collection is thousands of pictures and again the sheer number makes finding anything in particular, difficult. Avoid the long URL by going to our website and clicking on the "photographs" link and then to the "historic photo collection link." A third link, to the Flickr URL will take you to those thousands of searchable historical photographs of Donner Summit. Have fun.

Find us on the the DSHS YouTube channel <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCJenAxPCb47Y14agmVGI-zA>
Find us on FaceBook where we place a new historical picture daily.

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Proofread by Pat Malberg, Lake Mary, Donner Summit

Page 1 picture of the Donner Summit transcontinental weather station by George Lamson



Plus, we'd all pile into the back of Grandpa's old truck and ride down to the pool in Dutch Flat. The pool had a rough concrete surface in the shallow end, so you'd always get a few scrapes from it. The deep end was just concrete sides and a dirt bottom. And the water was cold - directly from the cold mountain streams. The pool is still there, but with some improvements over the decades.

My time there as a kid was before I-80 was built - it was just Highway 40 then. I remember the construction of I-80. Over the years, the traffic noise got to be quite loud - the cabin was not far from the freeway. It was just opposite the 4000' marker on the road. I still honk my car horn when I drive past it.

The cabin was active for the family until about the 1990's, when there were issues with water rights and leasing. "Old Man Lukin" owned all the property back then, and then leased water rights to Crystal Springs water company about the 1970's, I think. They started 'draining' the natural springs in the mountains on the east side of Baxter. Then there were some property leasing issues, and a large winter storm dropped a tree onto the cabin. Family financial issues caused the cabin to be abandoned.

I recall being a young kid in the late 1950's-60- then a young family. We used to hike to the Baxter store for a treat. Good memories.

"Old Man Lukin's" family is still around there, I think. They had cabins at the beginning of the road to our cabin. It's on the "new Baxter" side of the freeway exit (eastbound exit, go right to a large parking lot). Might be a RV area there - at least it used to be.

Used to be a gas station and a separate little store. Both are closed now - have been for many years.

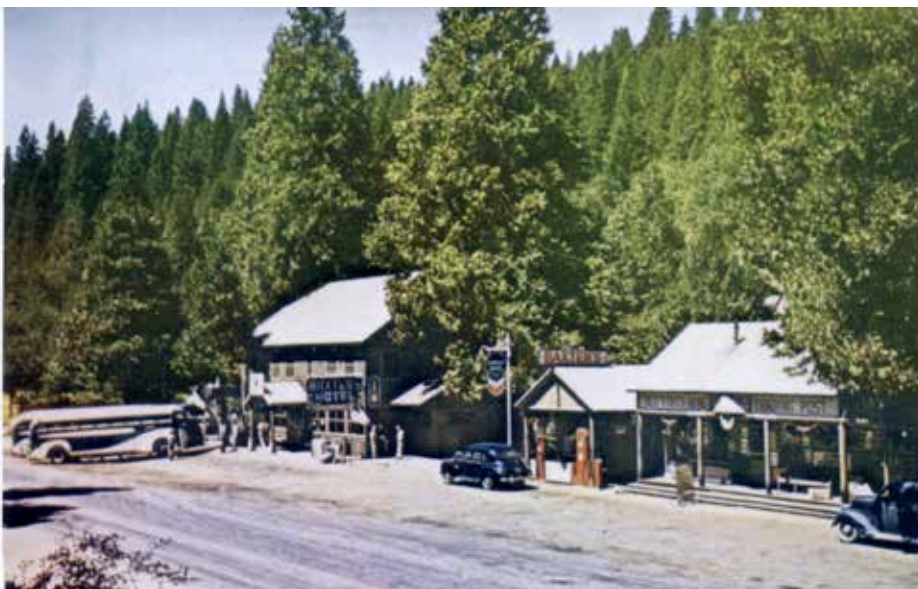
There's a gate on the road that goes north-ish from the new store location. That's the access point for the Crystal Springs water trucks. The Lukin's cabins are near the water filling tanks. Used to be great water at the cabin - fresh and cold from the mountain springs. Not so much there with all the water taken out



over the decades by Crystal Springs.

Rick Hellewell

[Finally, Baxter is not Donner Summit. It's where they closed the highway before winter plowing so it restricted access to Donner Summit. We decided to include the Baxter pictures because they're fun and if we don't who will?





Baxter in winter (from a drone?)



The Hellewell cabin about 1980



Apparently an earlier incarnation of Baxter.

Travels West

William Minturn, 1877

Travels West is another primary source book we came across. We found some of the quotes about Donner Summit interesting but didn't do a book review. The book chronicles Mr. Minturn's travels west on the transcontinental railroad only eight years after its completion. Like many 19th Century writers Minturn uses evocative and descriptive language that has been lost. That makes fun reading.

From Boca we begin gradually to ascend, and fourteen miles beyond Truckee, the next station, we reach Summit, the highest station on the Sierra Nevada mountains, an elevation of 7,017 feet above the sea-level. We have yet 245 miles to travel ere we make our destination, having journeyed 1,669 miles since leaving Omaha.

Great mountain peaks rise around us to an immense altitude, bare, bleak, brown; they look down upon us from their enormous height, with a majestic calmness which is at once awe-inspiring yet singularly attractive.

The sight of these tall, massive piles of granite, bathed in the light of the early morning sun, impresses the imagination so strongly with a sense of the sublime that you involuntarily

burst out into expressions of intense satisfaction, and you ask yourself the question, "Can I ever forget this? Will the memory of these emotions, which now fill my soul to the very brim, ever be effaced?" And then, you note--like so many diamond-points engraving the scene still more deeply on your memory--the dew-drops on the gray sides of the granite peak, glistening in the rays of the sun.

To our right, but far below, in a mountain gorge, the sparkling waters of the South Yuba, under the deep shade of many fir trees, skip and leap and waltz, over great rocks, through dense forests, frothing and foaming and posturing into countless shapes, -now as a noisy cascade, plunging headlong over immense boulders, with a deafening roar, sharp and ceaseless; then hurrying along with a quiet but rapid movement, stopping now and then to have a little quarrel on its way with some blundering obstruction, yet still continuing its journey to its final destination -the Sacramento river.

The head waters of the Bear river likewise take their rise in these mountains, and still farther on, to the left, the American river is seen. These streams, after many a devious winding, journeying through and watering a vast extent of country,

continued to page 12

More Summit Hotel Pictures

In November and December 2023 we included pictures from Jim Sherritt's album, many of which were of the Summit Hotel owned by Mr. Sherritt's grandparents. Coincidentally someone perusing our FaceBook pages sent along what's on this page, apparently from a Southern Pacific guidebook. Since the Lincoln Highway is "new" here we can imagine the publication was sometime shortly after 1914 which is when the Lincoln Highway opened up on Donner Summit with the new underpass next to China Wall. The text, right, is formatted as originally though retyped for legibility.

The Summit Hotel sounds like a nice place to come and stay for awhile and the price seems reasonable.



Summit Hotel

The High Sierras

Altitude 7,015 Feet

ON

Main Line of Southern Pacific

AND

Lincoln Highway



JOSEPH GOWLING, Proprietor

P. O. ADDRESS

DONNER, PLACER COUNTY, CALIF.



SUMMIT HOTEL is located at the crown of the Sierra Nevada Mountains. 7015 feet above sea-level on the main line of the Southern Pacific Railroad. 195 miles from San Francisco.

The scenery here is unparalleled and the water absolutely pure,

A dairy run in connection with the hotel insures plenty of fresh milk and cream and butter.

SUMMIT HOTEL is a clean, comfortable, homelike place, newly renovated and sanitized, and is on the new Lincoln Highway. Good fishing in lakes and river nearby.

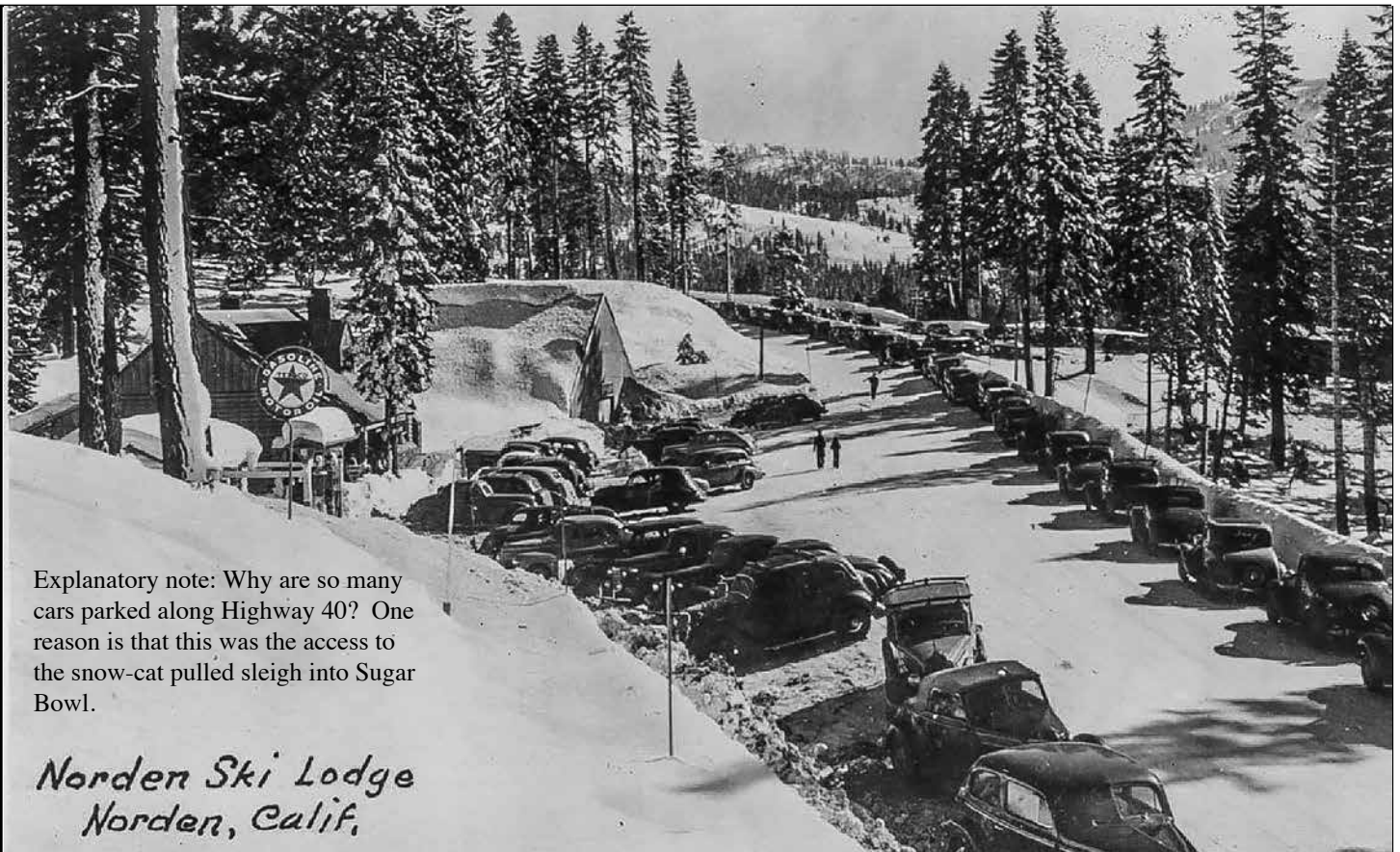
We maintain an Auto shed, with gasoline and oil always on hand

Long distance phone and post-office in the premises.

Week-end season rates on railroad
RATES \$1.50, \$2.00, \$2.50 per day for room and board. Special rates by the week or month

For reservation or further information address

JOSEPH GOWLING, Proprietor
Summit Hotel Donner Post Office
Placer County, Calif



Explanatory note: Why are so many cars parked along Highway 40? One reason is that this was the access to the snow-cat pulled sleigh into Sugar Bowl.

*Norden Ski Lodge
Norden, Calif.*

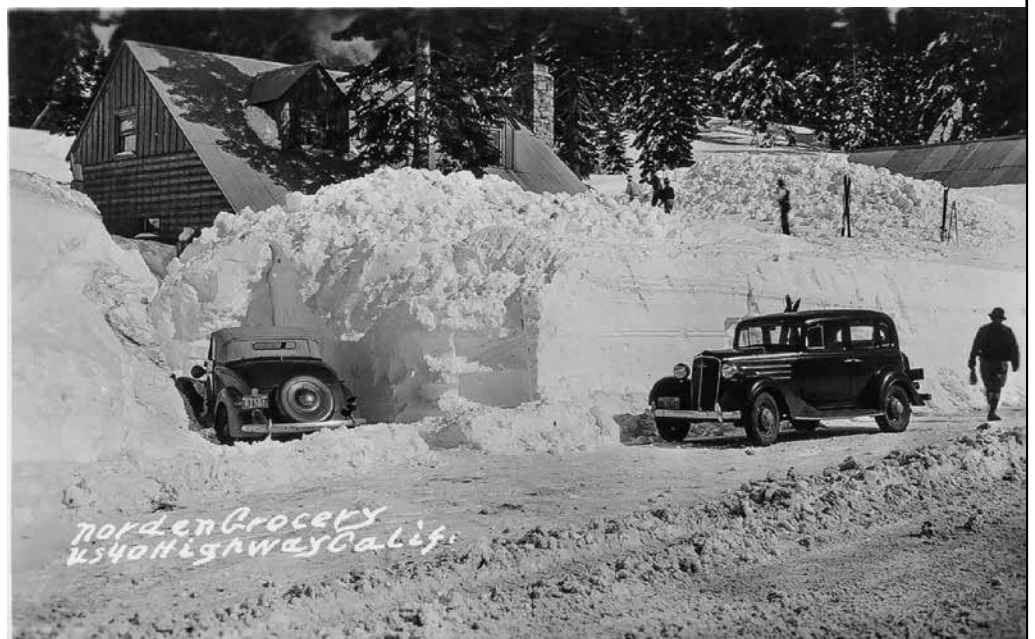
& from Milli Martin

Milli Martin lives in Homer, Alaska but at one time she lived summers on Donner Summit with her uncle and aunt who owned the Norden Store and Lodge which was also the post office for Norden, CA (95724). She sent the pictures on these two pages along along with her little reminiscence

Thought you might like to see these. I dug out old photos to show to my half sister, who came for a visit, the ones of the Norden Ski lodge, with that rear dormer and window, that was bathroom, and Lena [Milli's aunt) had rescued a young Robin, whom she named Bobbie. Bobbie had the "run " of the house, and would go from restaurant table to table looking for snacks. The customers would follow him with a napkin for unwanted droppings that often occurred. She had him all winter in 1939, but spring he flew out that window as he had done all winter and never came back. Lena hoped he had found a mate and was happy and wild again.

I later remembered Lena raised that baby robin with the fishing worms she sold in the store. He was real tame loved to sit on shoulders, and loved to hop from table to table in the restaurant. Everyone loved him.

Milli





NORDEN STORE & SKI LODGE
NORDEN, CAL.



Left, Norden Store front and
below, Norden Store back.



From the DSHS Archives

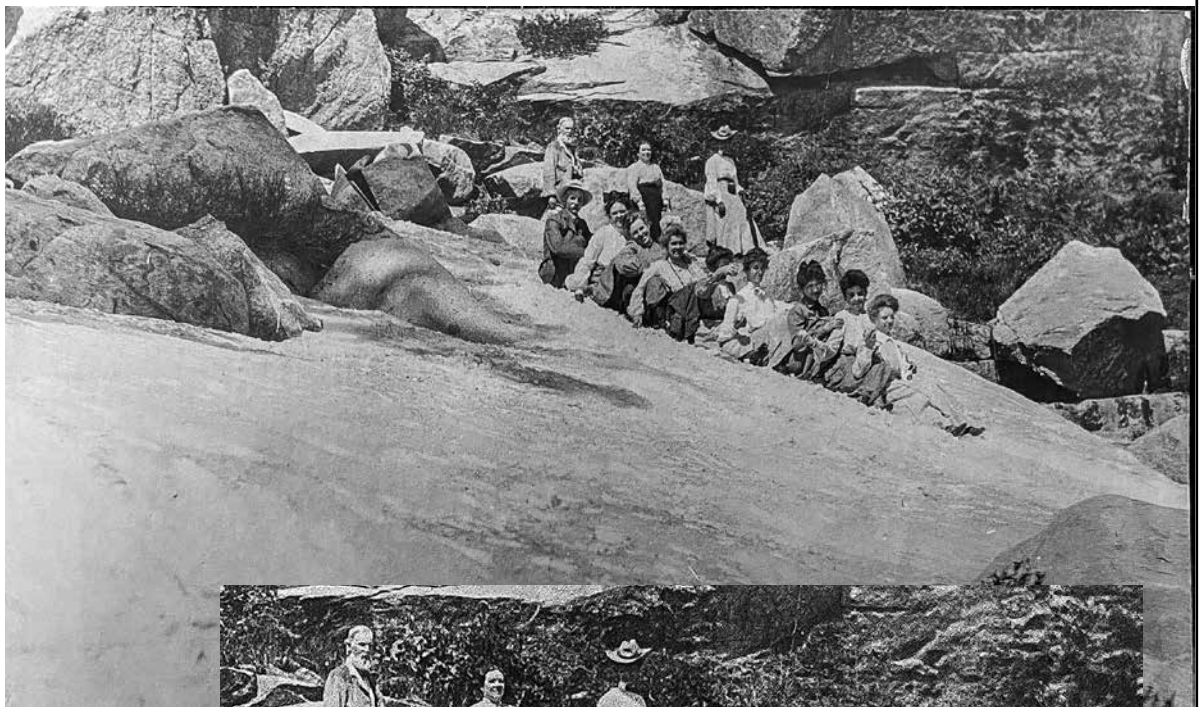
Reflections on another Jim Sherritt photograph

This picture comes from the Sherritt albums last visited in the [Heirloom](#) in November and December 2023.

First, It's a reminder to please label your photographic archives for future generations to enjoy and understand.

The photographer here, presumably Jim Sherritt since it was his album (see the 11/23 Heirloom), didn't label the picture for place or people. So we get to make some things up. The picture could have been taken anywhere on Donner Summit since granite grows in abundance almost everywhere. We have ten young women dressed in early 20th Century garb accompanied by two men. Perhaps the ladies in the background are the chaperones for the eight young women in the foreground as they accompany two male teachers from their exclusive boarding school in the Sacramento area. The group took the train to the Summit Hotel (owned by Jim Sherritt's grandparents) and Jim (born in 1903) accompanied the group up to the snow where they learned about local geology and took advantage of the topography to slide down the snow and have an unpictured snowball fight. Someone had the idea to put together a train of young women and slide as a group but that didn't work too well. It was just as well that there were chaperones because the one fellow with the mustache is a bit too close given the morés of the time. The young ladies are well covered

though, not an ankle in evidence. (Imagine what the group would look like today). Most of the young ladies' expressions show they are enjoying the outing. None have notebooks so any note taking must have been mental. Following their outing they tromped back to the Summit Hotel and had a meal pending the arrival of the west bound train.



Do you have a better story?

From the DSHS Archives

Imagine how different Donner Summit would be if there were no railroad and had been no railroad ever. Note: Our December [Heirloom](#) included an article about the railroad's plan to dispense with the Sierra Hump, an affectionate name, apparently, for the Sierra at Donner Summit. That was one idea. Then there was the idea by Alexy Von Schmidt who wanted to run the railroad through a tunnel along with water from Lake Tahoe to irrigate the Central Valley (See the 2/21 [Heirloom](#)). Those were not the only ideas to dig new tunnels. Here's another.

In 1902 the [San Francisco Call](#) trumpeted great plans for the "Big Tunnel." It would bypass the elevations, curves, snowsheds, and grades of the Sierra. By March of 1902 the railroad had completed the survey for the longest tunnel in the world. It would be five miles and 800 feet in length or between six and eight miles long depending on the news article. It would eliminate 1000 feet of elevation and reduce the snowshed length from 40 to 12 miles.

Ground breaking was scheduled for the end of the year. The west end of the tunnel would be at Hampshire Rocks and follow the Yuba. The east portal would be close to the level of Donner Lake. It was expected the tunnel, lighted by electricity would be a great money saver in time and fuel.

The project was part of a complete reconstruction of the Union Pacific which would shorten distances, reduce curves, and cut grades. The entire project would cost tens of millions of dollars said the [San Francisco Call](#) in December, 1902. It was expected the job would take five years to complete

Of course the tunnel never got built due to its high cost, five to seven million dollars, but discussions continued.

By 1903 the tunnel had moved up 500 feet in elevation and the route would have been a bit longer than the old route but the reduced grade would have made it workable.

**COMPLETES
SURVEY FOR
BIG TUNNEL**

**Southern Pacific Now
Ready to Pierce the
Sierra.**

**Its Underground Route to Be
the Longest in the
World.**

**Will Cost Many Millions of Dol-
lars and Years Will Be Con-
sumed in Its Con-
struction.**

**TO TUNNEL
THE CREST
OF SIERRA**

**Harriman Orders
Alteration in
Railroad.**

**Millions Will Be Ex-
pended on Southern
Pacific.**

**Steep Grade and Miles of
Snowsheds to Be Done
Away With.**

Special Dispatch to The Call.

Need a job?

THE BIG R. R. TUNNEL

Tunnel men, corner men, header men, muckers and laborers; wages \$2 to 2 75 day

It's free fare

[San Francisco Call](#)
September 16, 1902
as formatted in 1902

Book Review

How to Survive History

Cody Cassidy
2023 212 pages

This is a book about a lot of compelling stories – which are told along with retrospective advice.

We have Bob Crowley to thank for finding us this fun book which is, the author says, “a detailed, practical manual for surviving the greatest catastrophes and adventures in this planet’s history” useful just in case you find yourself in a time machine which lands you at one of these pivotal events.

Faithful readers will interrupt here asking where the Donner Summit history is, which is the mandate of the [Heirloom](#). The answer comes late in the book, the “Donner Party,” which, of course, was a catastrophe. Please remember the Forlorn Hope (of which Bob Crowley and friends did a reprise a few years ago) went over Donner Summit as did the four rescue parties (which Bob Crowley and friends did a reprise of a year after the Forlorn Hope adventure), and about half of the Donner Party.

On the way to the Donner Party in the book there are other catastrophes to survive.

Each catastrophe comes with background information like the life cycle of carbon, woolly mammoths weighed about 12,000 lbs. The Great Pyramid took twenty-five years to build, all about magma, a run down of Roman history, symptoms of the Black Death, Malthusian economy, the end of serfdom, scurvy, the rules for being a pirate, and the contents of the library of Constantinople. They are interesting stories even if they are not about Donner Summit.

After each event's description comes the survival techniques specific to the catastrophes like how to kill a woolly mammoth, outrun a Tyrannosaurus, get out of Pompeii, etc.

We get to the Donner Party on page 143 and here there’s an error noting that emigrants were going west for gold in 1846. The Gold Rush was 1848, two years later. Lansford Hastings, whose guide book (reviewed in the September '14 [Heirloom](#) -[The Emigrants' Guide](#)) guided the Donner Party to disaster is described as a “respected guide.” Nevertheless the Donner Party story is true to life with the focus of how to escape this catastrophe coming down to the wrong turn. That focus on the left

“Even if you join the Donner Party, you can arrive safely in California. Just move as little as possible, skip the snowshoeing group [The Forlorn Hope], learn to love pulpy leather food – and, of course, overcome the age-old taboo handed down by a few xenophobic Ancient Greeks.”

HOW TO SURVIVE HISTORY

How to Outrun
a Tyrannosaurus,
Escape Pompeii,
Get Off the Titanic,
and Survive the
Rest of History's
Deadliest Catastrophes

CODY CASSIDY

Author of WHO ATE THE FIRST OYSTER?

hand turn, though, misses the other ways the Donner Party could have been saved: strong leadership, team work, keeping track of the oxen, not dawdling, going right over the pass when they arrived at Donner Lake and Edwin Bryant’s story. Bryant wrote a best selling, for the time, guidebook, [What I Saw in California](#) (reviewed in the April '13 [Heirloom](#)). He and friends were part of the larger group that included the Donners. They traded in their wagons for mules at one of the forts along the way and ended up in California weeks before the Donner Party. That would have been a good survival technique for the Donners so Cassidy's story about the Donner Party is true though cursory.

Note that the [Heirloom](#) reviewed books noted above are on our website as well as in the [Heirloom](#)

meet at last, but far apart, after many wild wanderings, at the same resting-place--the Sacramento river.

Without doubt, the passage of the railroad over this mountain pass is one of the greatest triumphs of engineering skill, and one of the most wonderful achievements of human labour, which history has thus far recorded. Some notion may be obtained of the abrupt rise and still more abrupt descent in the road at this point--and from these facts the reader may judge of some of the difficulties of construction --when it is stated that the track going westward ascends 2,500 feet in 50 miles, and then descends 6,000 feet in 75 miles. Over one mile of tunnels in this locality testify to the amount of work done in blasting alone; the powder used for this purpose costing, it is said, over one million dollars.

If the traveller has sufficient and to spare of that most precious coin in these days of rapidity in all things--time, let him stop here [Donner Summit] for a few days, devoting himself to the congregated beauties and sublimities which these tall, majestic mountains, deep and solemn gorges, lofty peaks, glancing, foaming waterfalls, and smooth, crystal lakes, afford the beholder in such rich abundance.

The accommodation is said to be good at Summit House [the Summit Hotel on Donner Summit], but whether good or bad, the tourist will be obliged to make his headquarters here, since this is the only hostelry --unless indeed he has a natural preference to camp out upon the bleak mountain side, or by climbing a trifle higher, say 4,000 or 5,000 feet, he might enjoy the novelty of "posting" himself in more senses than one--upon the snow covered points (this being an exact translation of the Spanish name of this chain of mountains, Sierras Nevadas), where, if he succeeded in reaching them, and there taking up his residence, it would be apt to be very permanent indeed.

As you stand at the foot of one of these frowning peaks, whose summit is covered with a sugarloaf cap of everlasting snow, and gaze upward--your head being in that position which the practised [sic] beer-drinker almost unconsciously assumes when draining a foaming tankard of ale you begin to realize how extremely small humanity is beside the infinitely grand in nature.

The critical reader, were he here but for a short half-hour, would find in his heart ample excuse for the bad poetry and worse prose which has been written about these mountains, since everybody who visits them feels in duty bound to take everybody else into his confidence, and "pour forth his soul" in the form of poetry or prose, as the case may be; and we all know, or may know, from bitter experience, what a vicious and unprofitable practice is that of "pouring forth one's soul" in any form whatever; and, moreover, any well-informed reader, only ordinarily versed in human nature, knows that the contemplation of mountains, snow-capped peaks, black and gloomy glens, dense forests of giant trees, white cascades bounding and resounding, and the strong current of pure icy breeze (which almost takes one's breath away), has a very powerful tendency to induce one "to drop into poetry," or worse yet, prose-poetry, and thus "pour forth," etcetera; a practice much to be deprecated, as aforesaid.

BY
WILLIAM MINTURN.



London:

SAMUEL TINSLEY,
10, SOUTHAMPTON STREET, STRAND.
1877.

[All Rights Reserved.]

203 f. 562.

Making History Colorful



SP 2247 (Class T-1, Ten Wheeler) is one of several locomotives equipped for fire suppression over Donner Pass. It was fitted with piping and nozzles to battle fires within the snow sheds, tunnels and along the mainline. You can see the hoses connected to the tank cars (used for carrying water) trailing 2247.

2247 was wrecked, repaired and eventually sold to Macco Construction in 1942.

from the Placer Co. Archives



Placer County Archives says this picture was taken at Soda Springs but that doesn't fit the view. We've looked closely but only have suggestions. Perhaps readers will weigh in? Our proofreader, Pat Malberg (see page 2) suggests near Sugar Bowl looking south

Today, due to advances in computer graphics technology, there may be a solution to the color limitations of our historical black & white images. Computers are remarkably adept at manipulating photographic images. Algorithms developed for Artificial Intelligence (AI) and machine learning have been adapted to image technology to give almost magical results such as the colorization of black & white images. Algorithms are "trained" by looking at millions of color and black & white versions of photos to "learn" how to add back colors to a black & white image. The algorithms learn how to find a sky and make it blue, find a face and make it flesh colored, find a tree and make the leaves green. They develop highly sophisticated models that can do amazing transformations. Amazingly this technology is now available on desktop computers.

George Lamson

Letter to the Editor

I just got done watching your Norm Saylor interviews and I smiled the whole time. My mom and dad and my brother and I started skiing at Donner Ski Ranch's Learn-to-ski-Weeks in 1965-6. We'd go up on Sunday, stay in dorm beds upstairs, get three meals a day, lift tickets and two lessons a day Mon-Fri and then go home. We had such a great time that we went that winter and went back up again that spring. We were taught by Unni Carlsen, Edvi Aro and Johnny Johanssen, old standbys in Summit history. Based on our new love of skiing, my parents bought a lot directly across from the Beacon Hill Lodge, staring straight out at the Soda Springs Ski Area chairlift. They bought a kit A-frame cabin from an ad they saw in the back of Sunset Magazine for \$3950 delivered, and proceeded to build the cabin with a local laborer in summer/fall of 1967. It was weathertight and had power in October of '67 so my brother and I spent the first night upstairs in our sleeping bags with an electric heater. The next morning there was 6" of new snow, the first of the season! We ran across the street to Beacon Hill and woke up our parents to tell them the exciting news. That season, my brother and I joined the Soda Springs Spartans race team and my dad got certified as a National Ski Patrolman, and from that point on, we were up there every weekend in the winter and spring, from first snow to lift closure in March/April, including all Thanksgiving, Christmas, New Years and Easter vacations. This was my junior high and high school years, so I literally never saw a high school basketball game, and missed a lot of dances, but I had my life in the mountains! I almost moved to the cabin for skiing/racing full time and going to Tahoe Truckee High School, but chickened out.

In 1988 my mom died, and we held onto the cabin, but eventually my dad sold it, which broke my brother's and my hearts, but there was great news. He sold it to our old next-door neighbor, one of my dad's best friends, Dee Cullom (Dee is a member of your organization). Dee and Cathy told my brother and me that any time that they or their family is not using the cabin, we can use it, and they'd be insulted if we didn't use it. So, we still get to go up. It makes me very melancholy to go there, because the best six years of my life in school were spent up there. Imagine, getting up there around 6:00 p.m. on Friday, dig into the cabin, turn on the water and heater and light a fire and have dinner. Ski all day Saturday, and have other patrolmen and their wives drop by for drinks before and after going to Beacon Hill and/or Soda Springs Hotel lounges, and then they'd roll back into the cabin around midnight. Ski all day Sunday, pack up the cabin, leave around 5:00 p.m., drive back to Lafayette, eat dinner, and then do it all again the next Friday. My parents were having a blast, and my brother and I had a whole separate set of great friends that we would hang with constantly up there. Great stuff like parking a car at Donner Summit on a full moon night and skiing under the Rainbow Bridge down to West End Donner Lake and go back up in a 2nd car to get the car at the Summit. We were living two distinct lives!

I remember watching Norm ski down the face of his ski area with no poles, carrying his little Lance in his arms. Donner Ski Ranch was just the greatest indoctrination to mountain life, and it's the best thing our parents ever did for us. Anyway, Soda Springs means the world to me. Thanks for your organization.

Steve Westcott

Old Time Sunday Drive

**Next Time
Take Scenic
Old Hwy 40
instead of I-80**



Historic Towns
Interesting Scenery
Fascinating History
Picnic Spots
A Slower Pace



Take a look at our guide to Old Highway 40! Turn by turn instructions from Rocklin to Truckee, broken into four legs and including pictures and history. Available on line on the brochure page of donnersummithistoricalsociety.org, at the DSSHS (at the blinking light in "downtown" Soda Springs, or the visitors' centers in Truckee and Auburn).



And while you are at it, check out the 20 Mile Museum - interpretive signs from Nyack to below Donner Summit on Old 40. Information at www.donnersummithistoricalsociety.org

Odds & Ends on Donner Summit



Glacial Erratics



Out in the forests, carpeting the meadows, in piles, you find these rocks and boulders. They were formed under the sea many millions of years ago, then got pushed as part of the Sierra five million years ago. Finally they were scraped off mountains around and carried by glaciers downhill. They came to rest where the melting glaciers left them. They are way older than the rest of the history, but interesting.

Some even have Native American mortars ground into their tops. At one time Native Americans camped nearby and used the erratics for food preparation.

This is part of a series of miscellaneous history, "Odds & Ends" of Donner Summit. There are a lot of big stories on Donner Summit making it the most important historical square mile in California. All of those episodes* left behind obvious traces. As one explores Donner Summit, though, one comes across a lot of other things related to the rich history. All of those things have stories too and we've been collecting them. Now they're making appearances in the [Heirloom](#).

If you find any "Odds & Ends" you'd like to share pass them on to the editor - see page 2

*Native Americans; first wagon trains to California; the first transcontinental railroad, highway, air route, and telephone line, etc.

Virtual Reality Tour of Donner Summit Train Tunnels

Howard Goldbaum is an emeritus professor of journalism at the University of Nevada at Reno. He has just completed a project, developing a virtual reality tour of Donner Summit. You can access the tour and (virtually play around on Donner Summit:

<https://allaroundnevada.com/donner-summit/>

Dr. Goldbaum became interested in the documentation of the Donner Summit tunnels and snowshed after he and Wendell Huffman (Nevada State Railroad Museum) explored the area as part of the research for their book featuring the 3D CPRR photographs of Alfred A. Hart (<https://waitingforthecars.com/>). We recommend this book highly; you can find a review of it on the book review page of our DSHS website or the March, '13 issue of the Heirloom. Back then (2010), you could drive through the Summit Tunnel. Goldbaum and Huffman used a million-candlepower light to illuminate the vertical shaft area of the tunnel interior. Wendell's captions from the book are used extensively in the info panels of the virtual reality (VR) project and in the captions on the 3D gallery of Hart's images which is linked from the project page (the first URL above)

Howard Goldbaum is an Emeritus Professor at the Reynolds School of Journalism at the University of Nevada, Reno. He taught courses in media (photography, audio, video, web design, and virtual-reality imaging) there for 17 years. He also served as director of the School's graduate program. Prior to that he was professor and director of the Multimedia Program at Bradley University (Illinois). His long career in media included years as working as a photojournalist and multimedia producer.

One of his long-term research projects explores the ancient monuments of Ireland and their traditions of folklore and mythology. This project uses virtual-reality environments to document the monuments and their landscapes.

<https://voicesfromthedawn.com>

A pioneer in the development of virtual-reality photograph, he was the first to create an underwater VR environment, in 1997.

<https://allaroundnevada.com/tropical-paradise/>

He has worked as a consultant in multimedia and digital imaging, and has won numerous awards for his work. He is the creator of the All Around Nevada website [<https://www.allaroundnevada.com>], and the co-author of a book of historic railroad 3D photographs. <https://waitingforthecars.com>

Donner Summit Historical Society

www.donnersummithistoricalsociety.org

Membership

I/we would like to join the Donner Summit Historical Society and share in the Summit's rich history

- new membership
- Renewing membership
- Individual Membership \$40
- Family Membership \$60
- Friend \$100
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- Patron \$500
- Benefactor \$1000

The Donner Summit Historical Society is a 501(c)(3) non-profit

Date _____

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Please mail this card with your check payable to the DSHS to Donner Summit Historical Society P.O. 1 Norden, CA 95724

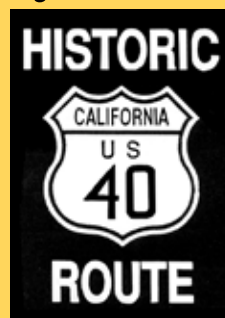
You can also go to our website and use PayPal or a credit card.

If you would like monthly newsletter announcements, please write your email address below VERY neatly.



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50 interpretive signs along Old 40
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